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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,330	07/30/2001	Mark A. Kirkpatrick	BS01-084	9174
45695	7590	11/03/2004	EXAMINER	
WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH P. O. BOX 71355 MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355			NGUYEN, TRONG NHAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2152	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/916,330	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIRKPATRICK ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jack P Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2152	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-41 are being examined.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-41 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-41 of copending Application No. 09/916288. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims in the copending application have all the limitations in the claims of the present application. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 1-41 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9, 12-15, 18,

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25-38, 40, 41, 46-51, 53-58, and 60-61 of copending Application No. 09/916323.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims in the copending application have all the limitations in the claims of the present application. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 32, 34 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 32, 34 and 38 contain the trademark/trade name Oracle. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade

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name is used to identify/describe database system and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehead et al, 6,085,030 (Whitehead hereafter).**

As per claim 1, Whitehead teaches a client-server computer system comprising: a client application server (104, fig. 1, col. 6, lines 15-19; *one of the nodes in element 104 designates as client application server*); an application server (280, fig. 2, col. 14, lines 6-7; *now refers to as component management server (CMS)*) accessible by a plurality of client application servers via a plurality of application software protocols (col. 2, lines 1, 39, and 63; *Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM), Remote Method Invocation (RMI), Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), etc. are examples of application software protocols*), wherein said application server provides a data validation service on data in response to a validation request from a client application server (abstract; col. 8, lines 3-14; *data validation is dynamically processed by CMS*); and a storage mass coupled to said application server for storing a system of dynamically maintainable validation functions for performing said validation service (250, fig. 2, col. 7, lines 57-61; *persistent storage stores validation functions accessible by application server*).

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As per claims 2-5, Whitehead teaches storage mass comprises an Oracle database (col. 8, line 1); validation functions are represented by a storage schema in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (or LDAP) (col. 7, line 66); Oracle database contains a table-based system of rules organized into at least three hierarchically organized views (450, 460, 470, fig. 4B, col. 11, lines 9-16; *component server, description repository container, and description type container represent the hierarchically views in a directory storage schema*).

Claims 6-7 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 2-5 above. Whitehead further teaches the hierarchically organized views are dynamically updateable by an external administrator (880, fig. 8A, col. 13, line 67 – col. 14, lines 7; *administrator can dynamically validate and update all views and their individual components*).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 8-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead in view of Allen et al, 6,078,918 (Allen hereafter).**

Claims 8-9 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 6-7 addressed above. Whitehead teaches administrative validation functions can be done and distributed to

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systems over the entire network (col. 10, line 67 – col. 11, line 5). Whitehead does not specifically disclose validation functions could be maintained remotely. However, it is well known and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Whitehead to provide validation functions that could be accessed remotely from any location in a distributed network system by a plurality of authorized users to save on support costs by increasing operational efficiency.

Claim 36 is rejected for similar reasons as claims 1-9 addressed above. Further, Whitehead does not teach data to be validated arranged in the form of hash table. However, Allen teaches data is indexed and arranged in the form of a hash table (520, fig. 5C, col. 10, lines 60-62). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated modify and combine the teachings of Whitehead and Allen to index data in the form of a hash table to perform quick lookups and searches as disclosed by Allen in [col. 10, lines 65-66].

Claims 10, 19 and 31 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 1 and 36 above. Whitehead further teaches a data network (100, fig. 1, col. 6, lines 9); plurality of application interfaces (DCOM, RMI, CORBA, etc. – see claim 1 reference above) communicate with application server via a plurality of computer network protocols (col. 2, lines 54-57; *UDP, TCP/IP, SAP, etc. are examples of network protocols.*)

Claims 11-14, 20-23, 32-35, 38-39 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 2-5 addressed above.

Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 6-7 addressed above.

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Claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 8-9 addressed above.

As per claims 28-29, it is well known in the art that information can be represented by a string of data.

Claims 30, 37, 40 and 41 are rejected for similar reasons as claim 36 addressed above.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Moshfeghi, 6,476,833; Fujino et al, 6,085,222 ; Ruckdashel, 6,038,542 ;  
Bowman-Amuah, 6,697,824 ; Sundermier, 6,484,214 ; Carlson, 6,697,849 ;  
Periwal, 6,163,776

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack P Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 605-4299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jpn



Dung C. Dinh  
Primary Examiner